



Emergency room nurses made of heart and steel

By SHARON M. HADDOCK
Herald Staff Writer

Emergency room nurses are unique people. They deal with trauma and blood, death and tears, and still come in the next day.

So described one of the co-workers of the ER nurses in Utah Valley Regional Medical Center's emergency center talking about an ER Nurse's Day.

Susie Kochevar, an ER nurse, describes working in the center as "a people sport. We wouldn't be here without people."

Bonnie Woolsey, an ER staff nurse currently in charge of the new patient screening screen process, says working in an emergency room is always challenging, varied and rewarding.

"You feel like you make a difference. You can see it in an hour. When it's busy, it's really busy. You get to deal with people in stress and you've had experience, you know how to help them get through it."

"It's never the same," adds Jean Lundquist, "I worked on an ambulance crew in Idaho before I came here in an emergency center. I love it. The variety is great."

"Plus, there's a big reward, an immediate reward. People come in scared and you can reassure them, make a difference."

She said a sense of humor keeps the nurses sane, so does physical exercise and talking about feelings with other emer-

room nurse learns to get past the pain and blood to actual assistance. "It's like you go into automatic pilot. You do what has to be done and later, when it's all over, you can say, 'Gee, that was pretty bad.'"

Kochevar echoes Lundquist's sentiments and explains further that even when the outcome may be tragic, "You still have to know you did all you could."

Today, doing all you can includes the "triage" or evaluation of a patient before he or she come to the reception desk.

Concerned over reports that sometimes patients were being shuffled from hospital to hospital once it was discovered they were indigent or uninsured, federal officials determined the triage must come first.

That means a trained nurse or doctor examines the patient and prioritizes his or her injuries and symptoms before the paperwork is filled out.

Woolsey said the process has been in place at UVRMC just a little under a week.

Wayne Watson, Administrative Emergency Center Director, reports that its already making a "very positive" difference.

"We've been told by COBRA (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act) to do this but that's not why we're doing it. It furfills the law but we're not doing it because the law says so. The law states that we must do

do that."

Watson says it has always made a bad impression to ask people to fill out paperwork before evaluating their condition.

Putting an ER nurse in the triage station for 20 hours a day represents a major investment, he explained. It takes one nurse off the staff chart for the center whose sole job is to watch for walk-in patients and sort their needs.

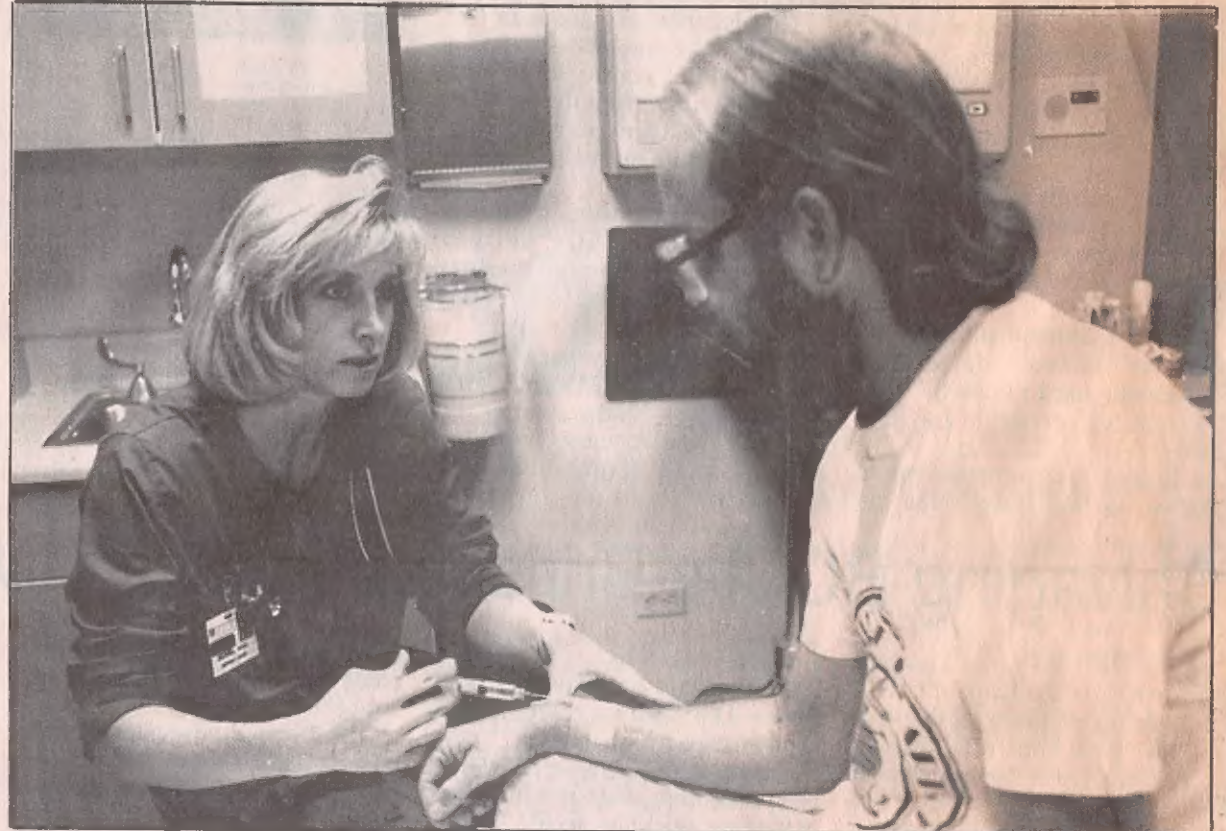
Meanwhile in the center, there may be as many as six nurses and two ER doctors (plus a variety of on-call specialists) working on patients who often fill all 16 examining stations.

Watson thinks the community will appreciate the change along with other changes that are consistently made to keep the emergency center a resource for people in need.

"We're concerned about their wait. We're doing all we can to be sure that's not any longer than necessary. We're doing what we can to keep costs down."

Woolsey and other triage nurses can help by sometimes advising patients to go visit their family doctor instead of the emergency center.

"It's a very expensive way of getting care," she said. "Sometimes people don't understand what kind of things can be taken care of as well and for much less cost at the doctor's office."



Herald Photo/Brian Tregaskis

More than a place to see emergencies — emergency room staff nurse Susie Kochevar injects David John Lamb with medication to help fight a mild rejection he's suffering as a result of recent kidney/pancreas transplant surgery.

"It's like you go into automatic pilot. You



Stock market mixed

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market churned in place today in an inconclusive response to the latest news on employment.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials rose 6.49 points to 2,991.28 by noontime on Wall Street.

Loser slightly outnumbered gainers in nationwide trading of

partment said nonfarm payroll employment increased by 24,000.

That number was about in line with private economists' expectations. It didn't appear to go very far toward answering the question of whether and how soon the Federal Reserve might relax its credit policy further.

Brokers said traders were also

Quotes

Stocks

NEW YORK	Avon	44 1/4-1/4
(AP) Fri's noon New York Stock Exchange selected prices:	BakrHu	23 1/4 ...
Stock Last Chg	BnkAm	40 1/2+1/4
AMR	Bearng	20 1/2-1/4
Albtsn	BellAtl	43 3/4-3/4
Alcan	BellSo	49 +1/2
ALACml	Boeing	49 ...
	BoiseC	25 1/4+1/4
	Borden	32 1/4 ...
	BrMvSo	82 1/4-1/4

CtData	9 1/4-1/4	Hmstke	15 1/4-1/4
DanaCp	29 1/4 ...	Honwl	53 1/4-1/4
Deere	50 1/4-1/4	ITT Cp	55 1/4-1/4
DialCp	36 1/2-3/4	IdahoP	26 1/4 ...
Digital	53 1/4-1/4	INCO	29 1/4-1/4
Disney	114 1/4+2 1/4	IBM	99 1/4+3/4
Dole	41 1/4-1/4	IntPap	70 1/4+1/4
DowCh	51 1/4-1/4	JRiver	21 1/4+1/4
Dressr	19 1/4+1/4	K mart	42 1/2 ...
duPont	44 1/4-1/4	Litton	87 1/4 ...
EKodak	42 1/4-1/4	Lockhd	38 1/4-1/4
Eaton	60 +1/4	Loews	109 1/4+1/2
Exxon	59 1/4+1/4	vjLnStr	3 1/4+1/4
FMC	46 1/4 ...	LaPac	42 1/4+1/4
FIntste	29 1/4-1/4	MDU	22 1/4+1/4
FordM	30 1/4+1/4	MartM	50 1/4+3/4
FrytMc	38 1/2 ...	McDonl	35 1/4+1/4
GTE	31 1/4+1/4	McDnD	59 1/4-1/4
Gannett	38 1/2-1/4	McKes	37 1/4+1/4

OcciPet	23 1/4 ...	SierPac	24 1/4 ...
Olin	46 1/4+1/4	SouthCo	30 1/4+1/4
OutbdM	16 1/4 ...	SwBell	55 1/4-1/4
PacEnt	29 +1/4	Syntex	41 1/4-1/4
PacGE	29 1/4-1/4	TRW	40 1/4-1/4
PacTel	42 1/4-1/4	Tektrnx	24 1/4-1/4
PacifCp	24 +1/4	Teldyn	19 1/4-1/4
Penney	49 1/2+1/4	Tennco	36 1/4 ...
PepsiC	28 1/4 ...	Texaco	63 1/2+1/4
Pfizer	66 1/2+1/4	TexInst	28 1/2+1/4
PhelpD	73 +1/2	Textron	34 ...
PhilMr	72 1/4+1/4	Timken	26 1/4-1/4
PhilPet	25 1/4-1/4	ToddS	5 ...
Polaroid	26 ...	Transm	37 ...
PopeTal	13 1/4 ...	TriCon	26 1/4 ...
PortGC	16 1/4-1/4	Trinova	22 1/4-1/4
Pottlch	38 1/4-1/4	UAL Cp	122 1/4-1/4
Primca	34 1/4-1/4	USWst	35 1/4+1/4
ProctG	84 1/4+1/4	USXMar	31+1/4
PSvCnl	25 1/4 ...	USXUSS	27 1/4-1/4

Smith's Food&Drug	36 1/4	36 1/4
Savin Bus. Mach.	5/64	1/16
Syntex	41 1/4	41 1/4
Teleflex	34	33 3/4
USX	27 3/4	28
Pac. Pwr. Works	24	23 3/4
Wash. Water&Power	32 3/4	32 3/4

OVER THE COUNTER

	Bid	Ask
Apple Computer	49 3/4	47 3/4
Duriron	21 1/4	21
First Security	25 1/2	25
Iomega	6 1/4	7
Larson-Davis	1 1/4	1 1/4
Novell	37	36 1/4
Omni Films	5 1/4	5

R.N. Wayne Watson directs the activity at UVRMC's Emergency Center, always a busy place.

Herald Photos/Brian Tregaskis



Lundquist said an emergency some type of medical screening but we are free to choose how we

done and later, when it's all over, you can say, 'Gee, that was pretty bad.'"

dence of the doctors in the hospital. "We have a lot more autonomy as ER nurses. We're making decisions that have to be made quickly. The doctors have learned to trust us."

She said while the common denominator for ER nurses is a great love for challenge, there isn't "an average" kind of ER nurse.

"You find a variety of life-styles and personalities in the center."

Shoell sees that the nurses are constantly updated on the latest developments and changes in treatments.

"It's a continuing process," Woolsey explains that an emergency room nurse has the confidence of the doctors in the latest developments and changes in treatments.

Lundquist points out that while the ER nurse has to learn to deal efficiently and dispassionately with traumatic situations, that doesn't translate to being uncaring.

Herald Photo/Brian Tregaskis



Putting physical assessment before fiscal assessment, Bonnie Woolsey is a front-line triage nurse at the Utah Valley Regional Medical Center emergency center.